

Craighead Environmental Research Institute

Monthly Progress Report: January 2009

for the Montana Department of Transportation and Western
Transportation Institute

Bozeman Pass Wildlife Monitoring
MSU banner number 426899

1 January 2009 – 31 January 2009

Task 1: Road Kill Surveys during January 2009

Road kill surveys were conducted between Bozeman and Jackson Creek. Surveys were conducted on both sides of I-90 from Bozeman to Jackson Creek and back for a total of 22 miles round trip and an estimated 1 hour of labor per survey. Fourteen (14) road kill surveys were driven during January of 2008. Three (3) of those recorded no new road kill. This equals 308 miles driven in January for this subcontract. Totals of animals killed between Bozeman and Livingston were:

Bozeman Pass Road kill Totals	January
Species	Number
Badger	1
Beaver	0
Bobcat	0
Bird Spp.	0
Black Bear	0
Cowbird	0
Coyote	0
Crow	0
Deer species	1
Dog	0
Domestic cat	0
Elk	0
Great Horned Owl	0
Ground Squirrel	0
Harrier	0
Hungarian (Gray) Partridge	0
Long-eared Owl	0
Magpie	0
Mallard	0

Marmot	0
Meadowlark	0
Mink	0
Moose	0
Mule Deer	0
Pigeon	0
Porcupine	0
Rabbit	0
Raven	0
Raccoon	1
Red Fox	0
Ruffed Grouse	0
Snowshoe Hare	0
Skunk	2
Small mammal spp.	3
Weasel	0
White Tail Deer	9

Task 2: Track bed monitoring at the MRL Bridge in January 2008

No track bed sessions were completed in January. The weather was generally too cold and the track bed was frozen. Track bed sessions will resume in the spring.

Task 3: Photo monitoring at fence ends through January 2008

Cameras were last downloaded on December 2, 2008. Camera batteries were checked on January 15, 2009. Batteries for these fence-end remote cameras were operational.

The camera mounted under the I-90 bridge over Bear Canyon road at the western fence end was downloaded on January 15. Since the last download on December 9 we recorded 3 domestic cat events under I-90 along the edge of the Bear Canyon road overpass. One person standing underneath the bridge was also recorded.

Task 4: Photo monitoring at jumpouts through January 2008

Cameras at jumpouts were downloaded on January 30. They were previously downloaded on January 2. Since the last download the SW jumpout camera recorded no animal events at the top of the jumpout although fresh cat tracks were observed in the snow there on January 30. Batteries were operational. This camera's sensitivity is set on medium to avoid triggering photos every time vehicles pass by on the Interstate or Frontage Road. The camera is triggered by people walking along the top of the jumpout, but may be set too low to photograph a cat. It is likely that a deer or larger animal would trigger the camera.

Since the last download the NE jumpout recorded no animal events at the top of the jumpout.

Since the last download the NW jumpout recorded 1 raven during 2 consecutive photo series.

The camera at the SW jumpout was not downloaded in January.

Task 5: Track bed monitoring at fence ends, jumpouts through January 2008

Monitoring of fence ends and jumpouts was discontinued in January because of mostly cold conditions and frozen track beds.

Task 6: Photo monitoring of culverts January 2008

The culvert cameras were downloaded on January 15. At the easternmost culvert 1 raccoon event was recorded. Deer tracks were seen in the mud at the culvert entrance but apparently did not travel into the culvert.

At the westernmost culvert 4511 images were recorded, most during a single day (12-08-2008) when swirling fog conditions appear to have triggered the camera. 10 water ouzel events were recorded. Batteries for both cameras were operational.

Task 7: Opportunistic snow tracking at track bed, fence ends, jumpouts, and along the Interstate in January 2008.

No opportunistic snow tracking session were conducted in January at the track bed and jumpouts.

Task 8: Data Management & Reporting in January 2008

Data entry and summary required two hours during January.

Discussion:

Road kill in January was similar to December, but low compared to previous months. Cold and snowy conditions may have reduced animal movements. Frequent plowing in December may have removed some carcasses from the highway and covered them with snow before they were recorded. Some of these were recorded as the snow melted during thaws.

An invoice was submitted with this report for January expenses and activities. Currently the cumulative total billed to this project is **\$27,888.36**